

Message Text

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11

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01

AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IGA-01 EUR-12

IO-10 /091 W

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P 050630Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4824

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, VS, HK

SUBJECT: SITREP-- VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

REF: HONG KONG 4838

1. MAJOR CHANGE IN VIETNAMESE REFUGEE SITUATION IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN ARRIVAL OF DANISH SHIP CLARA MAERSK WITH 4,420 VIETNAMESE, WHO HAD BEEN TAKEN ON BORAD FOLLOWING THE SINKING OF A VIETNAMESE SHIP. SHIP ARRIVED HONG KONG ABOUT 1800 HOURS MAY 4. FROM INITIAL IMMEDIATE SCREENING BY HKG, REFUGEES HAVE BEEN SORTED OUT INTO 580 FAMILY GROUPS PLUS ABOUT 200 SINGLE YOUNG MEN. THE MAJORITY OF WHOM WERE IN VIETNAMESE ARMY. GENRALIZED BREAKDOWN IS 2,000 MALES, 1,000 PLUS FEMALES, AND 1,000 PLUS CHILDREN (AGED UNDER 14). EIGHTY HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED BUT APPARENTLY THERE ARE NO SERIOUS ILLNESSES. REMAINDER HAVE BEEN SETTLED INTO FIVE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS WITH LARGEST GROUP (2,300 GOING TO TWO HASTILY-ARRANGED TENT CITIES IN NEW TERRITORIES. SCREENING ALSO REVEALED A SPRINKLING OF BELGIAN, FRENCH, AND CANADIAN PASSPORTS AMONG GROUP.

2. ICEM LOCAL OFFICE HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS AND
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CAPABILITY OF PROCESSING THE GROUP USING VIETNAMESE ALREADY

IN HONG KONG AS INTERPRETERS AND BORROWING SOCIAL WORKERS FROM OTHER VOLAGS AS NECESSARY. ICEM HAS NOT HEARD ANYTHING FROM ITS GENEVA HEADQUARTERS CONCERNING THIS, HOWEVER, AND DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO COORDINATE WITH ICEM, GENEVA ON THIS PROBLEM.

3. GROUP OF 67 FROM SWISS AIR AND AIR AMERICA FLIGHTS REMAIN IN HK IMMIGRATION DETENTION WHILE SIX AIR AMERICA EMPLOYEES PROCESSING UNDER 203(A)7 ALONG WITH 18 AIR VIETNAM EMPLOYEES. ONE MEMBER OF THE VIETNAMESE CONSULATE GENERAL, HIS WIFE AND CHILD ARE FORMALLY SEEKING ASYLUM, WHICH WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, RELIEF (ASSISTANCE)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK04868
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750156-0607
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750581/aaaacwro.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 HONG KONG 4838
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITREP--VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG
TAGS: SREF, VS, HK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006